



IAEA

الوكالة الدولية للطاقة الذرية
 國際原子能機構
 International Atomic Energy Agency
 Agence Internationale de l'énergie atomique
 Международное агентство по атомной энергии
 Organismo Internacional de Energía Atómica

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The Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency (the Agency) presents its compliments to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Agency, and has the honour to request that they draw attention of their appropriate governmental authorities to the Agency's intention to hold a Technical Meeting to determine the impact of the implementation of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources (the Code of Conduct) for manufacturers and suppliers of radioactive sources, at its Headquarters in Vienna, Austria, from 16 to 19 February 2004. This activity is carried out pursuant to the Agency's Action Plan for Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources (GOV/2003/47-GC(47)/7, Annex 1).

The major issues for discussion at the meeting would include:

- Methods of manufacturing radioactive sources and devices that are more secure and less vulnerable to dispersion or dismantling by persons with malicious intent;
- Ways of validating legal purchases of radioactive sources and ensuring they are only distributed to authorized users who are working within an appropriate regulatory regime;
- Arrangements for ensuring appropriate return or disposal of spent sources; and
- The development of a Code of Practice for manufacturers and suppliers, to define their roles and responsibilities during the life cycle of high risk sources.

The discussion would also cover the recommendations of an earlier Technical Meeting, which was held to enhance the safe and secure design, manufacture, distribution and return of radioactive sources and devices, in Vienna, Austria, from 28 to 30 April 2003.

The meeting will be conducted in English only.

It may be noted that this Technical Meeting will take place in concurrence with another Technical Meeting to be held at the Agency's Headquarters in Vienna from 16 to 20 February 2004, where the development of internationally harmonized guidelines for the import and export of radioactive sources, in accordance with the requirements set out in the revised Code of Conduct, will be discussed.

In view of your country's potential interest in the subject matter, your Government is invited to designate an expert(s) with experience or responsibilities relating to the manufacture and supply of radioactive sources to participate in this meeting. It is expected that the participants to the meeting would comprise of representatives of regulatory bodies, the major manufacturers and distributors, and other experts who have been involved in assessing and initiating proposals to enhance the safe and secure distribution of radioactive sources.

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Due to budgetary constraints, the Agency is not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of nominated participants to the Technical Meeting concerned. Limited funds may, however, be available to help cover the cost of participants from Member States eligible to receive technical assistance under the Technical Co-operation Programme. Such assistance may be offered, upon a specific request, to one participant per country, provided that, from the Agency's point of view, this participant would make an important contribution to the meeting. (The application for the aforementioned financial support should be made upon your nomination of the participant).

It would be appreciated if your Government's reply would reach the Agency not later than 26 January 2004. As the subsequent correspondence would be exchanged directly between the Scientific Secretary of the Technical Meeting, Mr. Brad McRee of the Division of Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety (E-mail: b.mcree@iaea.org), and the designated expert, it would be helpful if you would provide in your reply the complete address of the nominated expert.

The Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs the assurances of its highest consideration.

22 December 2003

